

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 NEA-10 SY-10 USSS-00 SS-20

NSC-10 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

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P 032100Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4510

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, PINS, AR

SUBJ: FORD MOTOR COMPANY SEEKING GOA GUARANTEES VS TERRORIST
ACTIONS

REF: A) BA-8721, B) BA-8585

1. LOCAL LAWYER INVOLVED IN HANDLING FORD MOTOR ARGENTINA'S AFFAIRS TOLD EMBOFF TODAY THAT SENIOR EXECUTIVE FROM DEARBORN DUE TO ARRIVE BUENOS AIRES TODAY IN EFFORT TO SEEK FIRM GUARANTEES FROM GOA REGARDING PROTECTION OF LOCAL FORD OPERATIONS FROM FURTHER TERRORIST ACTIONS. REPORTEDLY, ECONOMY MINISTER GELBARD MET WITH INTERIM FORD MOTOR ARGENTINA CHIEF EXECUTIVE YESTERDAY, DECEMBER 2, AND PROMISED TO ARRANGE INTERVIEW FOR DECEMBER 4 WITH EITHER PRESIDENT PERON OR VICE PRESIDENT ESTELA MARTINEZ DE PERON. INFORMANT STATED THAT IF NO SATISFACTORY PLEDGE OF PROTECTION WERE RECEIVED TOMORROW, FORD MOTORS MIGHT DECIDE TO SHUT DOWN ARGENTINE OPERATIONS ALTOGETHER RATHER THAN CONTINUE UNDER THREAT OF FURTHER ATTACKS ON PERSONNEL OR PLANT, SUCH AS NOVEMBER 22 ASSASSINATION OF TRANSAX PRESIDENT SWINT.

2. INFORMANT STATED ALSO THAT FORD HAS NOTICED NO VISIBLE EFFORT TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR LOCAL PLANT AND THOSE OF OTHER FORD SUBSIDIARIES IN ARGENTINA, DESPITE ASSURANCES RECEIVED
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NOVEMBER 30 FROM INTERIOR MINISTER LLAMBI AND AGAIN YESTERDAY

FROM GELBARD. FORD APPARENTLY STILL FEELS ITSELF UNPROTECTED FROM AUTHORS OF LATEST EXTORTION EFFORT (SEE REF A) AND GROUP WHICH KILLED SWINT (SEE REF B). LATEST THREATS MAY BE REGARDED AS INTOLERABLE BY PARENT COMPANY AFTER LONG SERIES OF SUCH INCIDENTS, STARTING WITH ONE MILLION DOLLAR PAYMENT EXTORTED FROM COMPANY LAST MAY FOLLOWING MACHINE-GUN ATTACK ON STAFF DEPARTING MAIN PLANT IN PACHECO AND CLIMAXING WITH EVACUATION LAST WEEK OF US PERSONNEL.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY POSSIBLE CLARIFICATION REGARDING PRESENT ATTITUDE FORD IN US REGARDING OPERATIONS IN ARGENTINA. OBVIOUSLY, ANY DECISION TO CLOSE DOWN FORD IN ARGENTINA WOULD BE MAJOR VICTORY FOR TERRORISTS ATTEMPTING TO DISRUPT ARGENTINE ECONOMY AND POLITICAL LIFE.
KREBS

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Message Attributes

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